(b) whether Government have received any proposal seeking revival of the aerodrome and resuming air service; and

(c) whether Government have taken initiative in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no commitment from any airline to operate schedule flights through Cooch Behar Airport.

(c) No, Sir.

Upgradation of Raipur Airport

2860. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposal with Government to upgrade the airport in Raipur;

(b) if so, by when the said upgradation work would start and be completed; and

(c) what funds are involved for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Airport Authority of India (AAI) has a proposal to strengthen and extend runway, apron and associated facilities.

(b) AAI has requested State Government to acquire land for the purpose and hand over to AAI. Taking up these works will be subject to the land becoming available. Works will be completed in about 18 months after award.

(c) No estimates have been prepared in the absence of land availability.

Renovation of Varanasi Airport

†2861. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the schemes for the renovation of Babatpur airport in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Varanasi, U.P. has been sanctioned but the same have not been started yet; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when these schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Works of extension & strengthening of existing runway, taxiway, apron, construction of isolation bay, link taxiway and construction of new terminal building for 800 passengers capacity have been sanctioned at Varanasi airport. Except runway extension and construction of terminal building, the above works have been awarded and are in progress.

(b) Work of runway extension and terminal building will be taken up by AAI, after diversion of a public road by the State Government. The road passes through the runway extension area.

Haj Traffic

2862. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the carriers of Haj traffic during 2000, 2001 and 2002 with Haj fares as fixed by Government and paid to the carriers per pilgrim, year-wise;

(b) the prevailing New Delhi-Jeddah-New Delhi IATA fares in US Dollars and Indian Rupees at the time of fixation, Haj-wise;

(c) the number of Haj pilgrims who availed of the Haj service, year-wise;

(d) the Haj fare paid by the pilgrims, year-wise ; and

(e) the total amount paid to the carriers out of Government funds as subsidy, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) During Haj-2000, M/s. Mido Aviation carried haj pilgrims. For Haj-2001, M/s. Kampuchea Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines were hired for haj transportation. And for Haj-2002, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Air India and Indian Airlines transported haj pilgrims